GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3040
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Development of Desert Land
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total desert land in the country, at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to develop the desert lands in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d)the details of total area of desert land proposed to be developed during the next three years,State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): The details of the total desert lands in the country State/UT wise is given in the Annexure.

(b) to (d): At present there is no specific proposal of Government of India to develop just desert lands in the country. However the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) had implemented the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis between 1995-96 to 2006-07. A total of 15746 projects covering an area of 7.83 million hectarewere sanctioned under this programme for whichRs3157.77 crore of Central sharewas released. Out of this, atotal of 13421 projects have been completed.The DDP alongwith the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) were integrated into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. One of the criteria has been adopted for the allocation of project areas is "identified DDP/DPAP areas in the State as percentage of total DPAP and DDP area in the country". The objectives of IWMP include harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water; prevention of soil run-off; rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table; increasing the productivity of crops; introduction of multi-cropping and diverse agro-based activities; promoting sustainable livelihoods and increasing the household incomes. From 2015-16, the IWMP is amalgamated as theWatershed Development Component of the Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchaiYojna (PMKSY).

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Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.3040 to be replied on 17.12.2015

State/UT wise the details of total desert land in the country*

S.No	State	Desert area (Categories 17,18 and 19)** in square km	No. Number of Projects sanctioned under Watershed Development Component of PMKSY for entire State including Desert area
1	Andhra Pradesh	4.09	432
2	Haryana	22.79	88
3	J&K	209.51	159
4	Punjab	322.57	67
5	Rajasthan	26928.05	1025

Total: 27487.56 1771

*Source: Wasteland Atlas of India (Revised Edition, 2011)

** Category 17, 18 & 19 includesdunes less than 15 m, 15-40 m and more than 40 m high respectively.